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PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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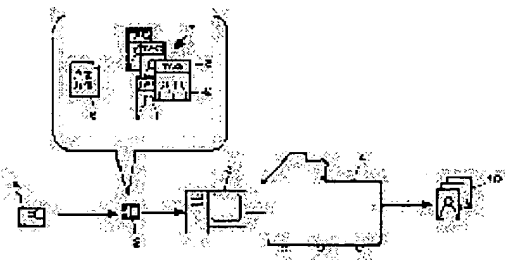
(72)Inventor : TANAKA HIROSHI

(54) METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PROCESSING ORDER OF IMAGE OUTPUT SERVICE, ORDER INFORMATION PREPARING DEVICE TO BE USED FOR THE METHOD, ORDER RECEIVING DEVICE AND DIGITAL CAMERA

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To exactly transmit the intention of a user to a service provider by fixing an order by recording order fixture information on a recording medium.

SOLUTION: In an order confirmation mode, the user confirms the contents of the order such as the number of prints on a screen and when prescribed operation (such as the pressure of a dedicated button, for example), is performed for meaning the completion of conformation, the order of displayed contents is fixed. When such operation is performed, the order fixture information is recorded on a memory card 2. Besides, the once fixed order can be canceled on an order confirmation card as well. Thus, the memory card 2 recording the order information and the order fixture information is received by an order receiving device 3. When the order receiving device 3 confirms the order fixture information and the order is fixed, according to the order information, an image file recorded on the memory card 2 is fetched and the preparation of a print 10 is instructed to a photographic printer 4 by performing the required image processing.



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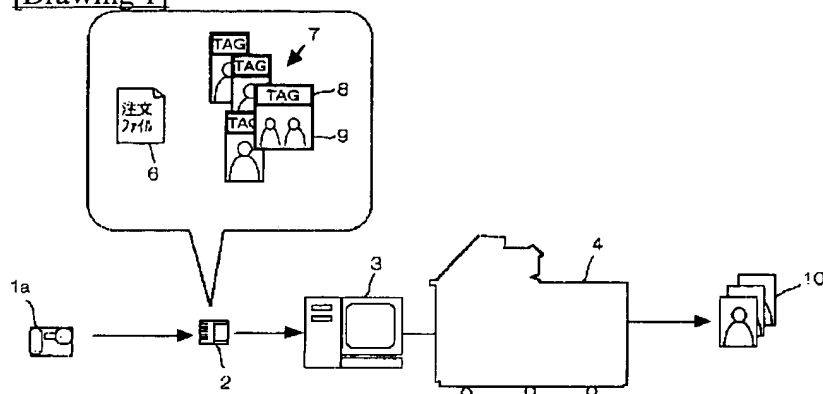
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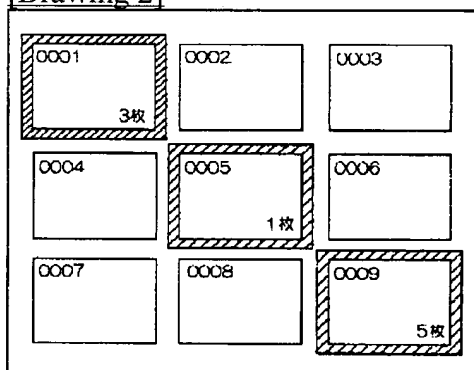
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DRAWINGS

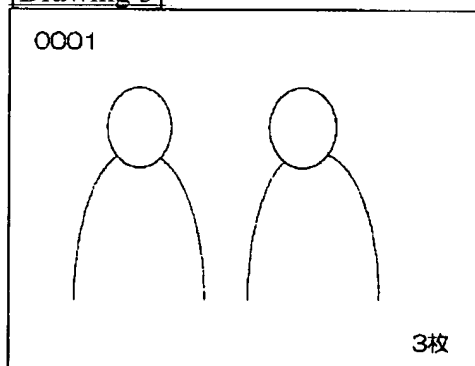
[Drawing 1]



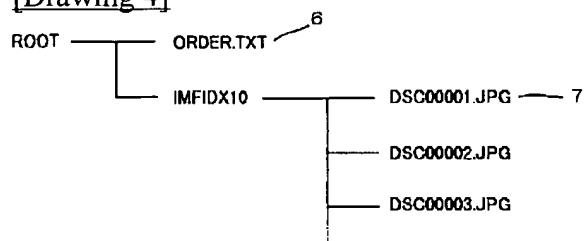
[Drawing 2]



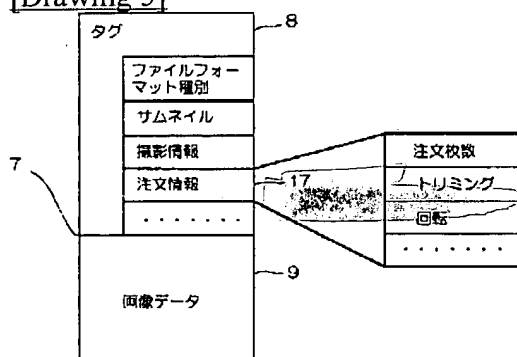
[Drawing 3]



[Drawing 4]



[Drawing 5]



[Drawing 6]

[管理情報]
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 注文ファイルの作成日=1999.1.1

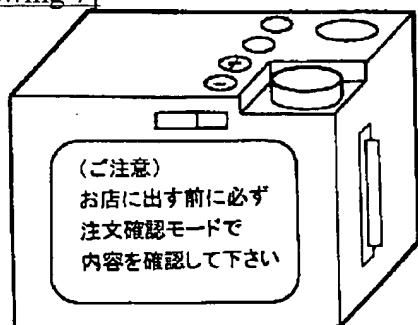
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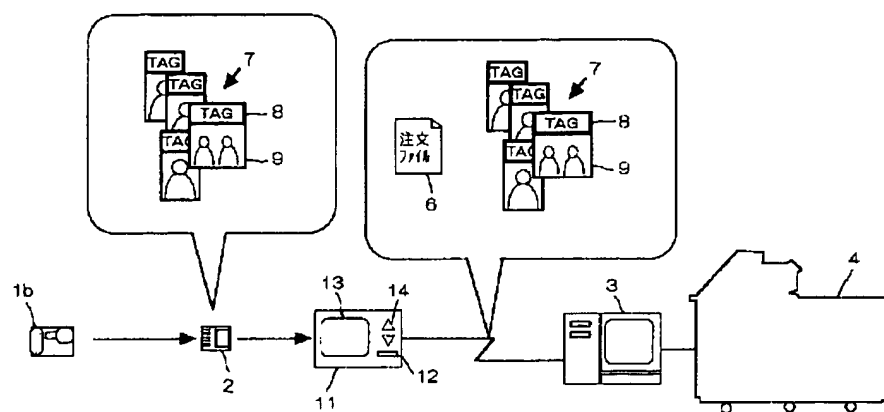
[プリント指示3]

(EOF)

[Drawing 7]



[Drawing 8]



[Translation done.]

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[The technical field to which invention belongs] This invention relates to the ordering information listing device, the digital camera, and the order reception equipment which are used for an order art and an order processing system, and its method or system in the case of recording in detail the ordering information which directs output size, number of sheets, etc. of an image on media about order processing of image output service, and delivering to a service store.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] In the various services offered according to a computer system, the ordering information for requesting service is memorized to removable media or a hard disk as digital data, and incorporating this digital data to a system and utilizing is performed.

[0003] For example, the system of the output service store used in case a design office etc. outputs the edit image designed using the computer to JP,7-282282,A is indicated. This system incorporates and uses information, such as a class of a client's address currently recorded on media, a name, and output unit, and a method, and performs the output and delivery of goods of an edit image efficiently.

[0004] Moreover, the network photograph service using the Internet has come to be offered in the field of digital photography service in recent years. With such service, a user creates the ordering information of a digital format on a personal computer, and an order is performed by transmitting the ordering information to the system of a service provider through media, such as FD, or the Internet.

[0005]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] Here, although ordering information may be repeatedly delivered with the above image output services using the same media, at this time, by the conventional order processing, new ordering information may be added to the past ordering information, and the output which is not meant might be performed.

[0006] As a method of making it the past ordering information not remain in media, in case ordering information is recorded on media, the method of recording, after eliminating the ordering information already recorded on media, or the method of overwriting the information can be considered, for example. However, by this method, when changing or adding order contents once recording ordering information, for example, there is a problem that an input must be redone from the beginning.

[0007] On the other hand, the way the system which outputs eliminates the ordering information when an output is completed is also considered. Or if media are returned after the system which outputs adds the information which shows that it is processing settled to ordering information [finishing / processing], even if an order will be performed by the media same later, the system by the side of a service provider can distinguish new ordering information and the past ordering information.

[0008] However, generally the risk of media destruction or data corruption always follows on write-in processing to media. For this reason, it is made not desirable to the media which the user usually carried in that a service provider writes in or to eliminate the data in those media. Since especially ordering information is what bears a role of an order cut-form, the condition that the system of the side which

receives the order of service can alter the contents easily is not desirable.

[0009] This invention aims at new order contents and the past order contents not being mixed up, and making it an intention of a user correctly transmitted to a service provider, when requesting output service repeatedly in view of the above-mentioned trouble using the same media. Moreover, this invention makes it a technical problem to attain without performing all the writing by the service provider side to the media into which the user carried this purpose.

[0010]

[Means for Solving the Problem] This invention proposes an ordering information listing device which is the component of an order processing system which processes according to the method, and its order processing system, a digital camera, and order reception equipment while proposing an order art for solving the above-mentioned technical problem.

[0011] First, an order art of this invention is explained. An order art of this invention is an order art of image output service like print service of a photograph. Acquire image data by an image pick-up or reading of a record medium, and it indicates by playback on display data medium by using acquired image data as a visible image. Output directions of said image data inputted from an input unit based on said playback display are received. So that ordering information of a predetermined data format said output directions were described to be may be generated, it may record on a record medium and a client of said image output service can check the contents of output directions The contents of directions about all image data and these image data outputs were instructed to be are displayed on display data medium. When predetermined order decision actuation which shows that said check was completed is received Only when an order is decided and said order decision information is recorded on said record medium by recording order decision information on said record medium, it is the method characterized by carrying out image output service based on ordering information currently recorded on the record medium concerned.

[0012] Here, not only actuation that "all image data outputs were instructed to be" is the semantics of image data by which output directions about the image data are already recorded on a record medium as ordering information, therefore was then performed but image data an output was instructed to be in actuation performed in the past may be contained.

[0013] That is, a method of this invention prevents that an order which is not meant is performed by checking a user's volition and delivering to a service provider by making the volition into "order decision information" by making a user check all ordering information currently recorded in a record medium in this way, and making actuation of "order decision" perform.

[0014] In addition, ordering information may be recorded on the same record medium as image data, and may be recorded on another record medium. Moreover, as a "record medium", memory cards, such as SSFDC, CompactFlash, and a PC card, record media, such as FD, MD, Zip, and MO, etc. can be considered, for example.

[0015] The above-mentioned order art can be enforced with an order processing system which consists of a dedicated terminal for creating ordering information, and order reception equipment which incorporates and processes the ordering information. Or a digital camera may be equipped with a creation function of ordering information, and a service provider side may offer service only with order reception equipment.

[0016] Namely, an order processing system of this invention is an order processing system of image output service constituted by ordering information listing device and order reception equipment. A data acquisition means by which said ordering information listing device acquires image data by an image pick-up or reading of a record medium, A display means which indicates by playback on display data medium by using acquired image data as a visible image, A directions reception means inputted from an input unit based on said playback display to receive output directions of said image data, So that an ordering information record means to generate ordering information of a predetermined data format said output directions were described to be, and to record on a record medium, and a client of said image output service can check the contents of output directions An order contents check means to display the contents of directions about all image data and these image data outputs were instructed to be on display

data medium, When predetermined order decision actuation which shows that said check was completed is received A data reading means by which are equipment equipped with an order decision means to decide an order by recording order decision information on said record medium, and the; aforementioned order reception equipment reads ordering information currently recorded on said record medium, A definite information check means to check whether said order decision information is recorded on said record medium, Only when said order decision information is recorded, it is characterized by being equipment equipped with an output directions means to direct an output of said image data to various output units based on ordering information currently recorded on the record medium concerned.

[0017] Moreover, a data acquisition means for an ordering information listing device of this invention to be the above-mentioned structure-of-a-system element, and to acquire image data by an image pick-up or reading of a record medium, A display means which indicates by playback on display data medium by using acquired image data as a visible image, A directions reception means inputted from an input unit based on said playback display to receive output directions of said image data, So that an ordering information record means to generate ordering information of a predetermined data format said output directions were described to be, and to record on a record medium, and a client of said image output service can check the contents of output directions An order contents check means to display the contents of directions about all image data and these image data outputs were instructed to be on display data medium, When predetermined order decision actuation which shows that said check was completed is received, it is characterized by having an order decision means to decide an order by recording order decision information on said record medium.

[0018] A "data acquisition means" is a media drive which reads the above removable media, for example. Or an image pick-up means of a gestalt like a digital camera and a seal print machine currently installed in a street is also considered. Moreover, with digital photography service, image data digitized in a lab may be deposited with a lab as it is. In such a case, a "record medium" is the hard disk of a system of a lab, and a data acquisition means means a means to search and read image data in a hard disk.

[0019] "Display data medium" shall be CRT or a liquid crystal display monitor, and a "display means" shall mean hardware and a program which control an output to those display data medium.

[0020] Moreover, "input units" is a manual operation button, a pointing device or a keyboard, etc., and a "directions reception means" is a program which displays selectable directions for example, on the above-mentioned monitor, and receives a selection input from a user.

[0021] "An order contents check means" is a program which indicates the list of an image with which an output was directed to monitor display by the index.

[0022] Under the present circumstances, "predetermined order decision actuation" can consider actuation of for example, the above-mentioned order contents check means displaying a definite carbon button on a screen, and pushing a carbon button with an input unit etc. Or a main part of equipment may be equipped with an order decision carbon button as hardware.

[0023] "An order decision means" records order decision information on a record medium in response to this actuation. However, "order decision information" may not necessarily be one independent data here. Information which is got blocked, for example, has semantics another originally [, such as a file attribute,] may be used as order decision information.

[0024] In order reception equipment which order reception equipment of this invention is similarly the above-mentioned structure-of-a-system element, and, on the other hand, receives an order of image output service by incorporating ordering information of a digital format A data reading means to read in a record medium ordering information output directions of image data were described to be, A definite information check means to check whether order decision information which shows that a client of said image output service checked the contents of said output directions in said record medium is recorded, Only when said order decision information is recorded, it is characterized by having an output directions means to direct an output of said image data to various output units based on ordering information currently recorded on the record medium concerned.

[0025] Specifically, a "data reading means" is a media drive which reads a record medium. Moreover, "various output units" is for example, digital photography printers etc.

[0026] Next, a digital camera of this invention is explained. A digital camera of this invention carries out the above-mentioned ordering information listing device with a gestalt of a digital camera. Namely, an image pick-up means by which this digital camera acquires image data by image pick-up, An image recording means to record acquired image data on a record medium, and acquired image data are used as a visible image. A directions reception means inputted into an attached monitor as a display means which indicates by playback from a manual operation button etc. based on said playback display to receive output directions of said image data, So that an ordering information record means to generate ordering information of a predetermined data format said output directions were described to be, and to record on said record medium, and a client of said image output service can check the contents of output directions An order contents check means to display the contents of directions about all image data and these image data outputs were instructed to be on said monitor, When predetermined order decision actuation which shows that said check was completed is received, it is the digital camera characterized by having an order decision means to decide an order by recording order decision information on said record medium.

[0027] Here, although order contents may be changed in actual order processing after making order decision, in such a case, it is necessary to redo order decision actuation. Moreover, image data an output was instructed to be may be eliminated after order decision. In this case, if ordering information wins popularity and is passed in the condition as it is, since the above-mentioned order reception equipment cannot obtain image data which should be outputted, it cannot perform output processing. Therefore, in such a case, it is necessary to cancel order decision actuation. About order decision actuation canceling, it is desirable to have a means to cancel manually, and a means to cancel automatically according to the above actuation.

[0028] That is, when ordering information currently recorded on this record medium is updated by it after said order decision information was recorded on said record medium by the above-mentioned digital camera, and/or when at least one image data currently recorded on said record medium is eliminated, it is desirable to have further a definite actuation cancellation means which cancels said order decision actuation.

[0029] Under the present circumstances, when all image data outputs were instructed to be is eliminated from said record medium by said elimination, said definite actuation cancellation means may eliminate the ordering information itself. Here however, with "a case where all image data outputs were instructed to be is eliminated from said record medium by said elimination" When all coma elimination is directed, and when an image also of one currently recorded as a result by having eliminated one coma is lost, specifically, a case where an image also of one for an output is lost as a result etc. is meant by having eliminated one coma.

[0030] Moreover, concomitant use of a gestalt which describes and records ordering information on a file as a gestalt of "ordering information", gestalten recorded as incidental information on image data, and those gestalten can be considered. Although "order decision information" may be recorded on media as data completely separate from ordering information or a file of such a gestalt, in order to save media capacity, it is desirable to record order decision information using those ordering information.

[0031] For example, the following gestalten can be considered as a gestalt of order decision information in a case of describing and recording ordering information on an order file. The visible attribute (Hidden attribute) of said order file expresses order decision information to one, and said order decision means is the gestalt which decides an order by setting up said visible attribute visible. moreover -- one -- order decision information -- the R/W attribute (Read/write attribute) of said order file -- expressing -- said order decision means -- said R/W attribute -- reading appearance -- carrying out -- a chisel -- being good (ReadOnly) -- an order is decided by setting up. Furthermore, if an ordering information generation day described in an order file is an effective date and it is a finishing decision [order] for example, invalid date as shown in "0000/00/00", it will suppose that it is undecided, and when said order decision means describes an effective date as said ordering information generation day, a gestalt which decides an order

is considered. Moreover, as long as it is order decision ending, for example, an order may be decided "OrderFix=Yes" and by describing a character code as which a character code like "OrderFix=No" expresses order decision information, and an order decision means means order decision in said order file if undecided. Or codes other than an alphabetic character may express order decision information. [0032] On the other hand, when recording each image data on said record medium as one image file, respectively, and describing ordering information as incidental information on an image in the file, and said order decision means describes similarly codes, such as an alphabetic character which means order decision in said image file, a gestalt which decides an order can be considered. However, since order decision information is the information on an order unit instead of an image unit, it is necessary to not necessarily embed it at no image files. What is necessary is just to embed order decision information in an image which followed, for example, was ordered at an image file of an image with smallest coma number, or largest image.

[0033] Furthermore, in order to raise the reliability of order decision information, two or more gestalten may be adopted as coincidence out of the above-mentioned gestalt. A gestalt of getting it blocked, for example, the R/W attribute of an order file expressing order decision information, and describing an order decision code in the order file further is sufficient.

[0034] In addition, as for the above-mentioned digital camera, it is desirable to have further an actuation reminder means to perform a display to which activation of said order decision actuation is urged to said client. In for example, not deciding, although a lamp turned on blue is sufficient as this when finishing [red and order decision], it is good to consider as a means to display a message, such as "be sure to check order contents before taking out to a store", on said monitor, desirably.

[0035] In addition, although the light may be made to always switch on in the case of a lamp, in the case of a message indicator to a monitor, it cannot always display. As timing of a display, a time of a user carrying a memory card of a camera etc. into a service store etc. is desirable, for example, a time of the power being turned off etc. can be considered. In this case, since it cannot display if a power supply will be intercepted completely, an actuation reminder means detects actuation of a power supply OFF, displays a predetermined time message, and it needs to perform power supply actuation as a power supply is actually disconnected after that. As timing of other displays, when a memory card etc. is sampled, it thinks.

[0036]

[Effect of the Invention] The order art and system of this invention by making a user check all the ordering information currently recorded on the record medium, and making actuation of order decision perform Since a user's volition is checked, the volition is recorded on the record medium same as order decision information and it delivers to a service provider, though the ordering information inputted in the past, for example remains in the record medium, a user can notice it in advance and does not perform an unnecessary order. Moreover, since a service provider side processes only for the ordering information by which the order is decided, processing whose intention the user did not have is not performed accidentally.

[0037] Moreover, if such equipment is installed in the shop front of a lab etc. although the above-mentioned order decision actuation is made to give a user while the ordering information listing device of this invention creates ordering information, it is not necessary to purchase a special device that a user records image data to output on media, and should just carry it in.

[0038] Moreover, since its service does not give when order decision actuation is not performed unlike conventional order reception equipment although it is equipment which reads ordering information and order decision information and offers output service based on those information, in order to be able to prevent a trouble with the user by the error of order contents and not to carry out unnecessary output processing, it is connected also to saving of a print form etc. in the order reception equipment of this invention.

[0039] Moreover, although the digital camera of this invention is a digital camera equipped with the ordering information creation function equivalent to the above-mentioned ordering information listing device, thereby, a user can create ordering information, without [without it goes to a shop front, or]

needing expensive devices, such as a personal computer. Since repeat use of the same media is carried out especially in many cases in the case of a digital camera, a possibility that the part, and the past ordering information and new ordering information are intermingled is high. Therefore, the effect of this invention of preventing the order which was mistaken by checking order contents and performing order decision actuation is large.

[0040] Furthermore, derangement is not given to the system by the side of a service provider, without being able to respond also to modification after decision flexibly, and conflict arising between order contents and image data, if it has the function which cancels the already performed order decision actuation automatically when the time of ordering information being updated by the above-mentioned digital camera and image data are eliminated.

[0041] Furthermore, if it has the function which eliminates the ordering information itself when ordering information turns into invalid information as a result from which the user eliminated image data, since meaningless information was left behind in the record medium, there will be no fear of derangement arising in next actuation.

[0042] Moreover, if order decision information is expressed using a Hidden attribute or a ReadOnly attribute of an order file etc. when describing ordering information to an order file and recording on media, since a file is the information always held irrespective of the existence of an order decision function, those attributes do not need to secure a record section for order decision information, and data-logging effectiveness is good [attributes]. Moreover, the same effect is acquired even if the order date described in an order file expresses order decision information.

[0043] If the code and keyword showing order decision information are described independently in an order file, although file capacity will increase on the other hand, compared with the above-mentioned information, it is intelligible whether it is finishing [order decision].

[0044] Moreover, there are also many cameras of the type which there is no function which creates an order file and records ordering information in an image file in a digital camera. About such a camera, if order decision information is embedded at any one image file, the function of this invention is easily incorporable.

[0045] Furthermore, if order decision information is recorded on media with two or more kinds of gestalten, the reliability of order decision information can be raised.

[0046] Moreover, in this invention, although there was volition a user requests [volition] an output, when you forget order decision actuation, the purport by which order decision actuation was not given to a user from a service provider is notified. In this case, since a useless output is not performed, if a user performs order decision actuation again and an output is requested, it is satisfactory, but if the function to perform a certain display for urging activation of order decision actuation to the above-mentioned digital camera is prepared, such an actuation failure can be protected. For example, if a message is displayed on a predetermined time monitor when an electric power switch is turned OFF, or when media are sampled from the main part of a camera, an actuation failure of a user can be prevented by quite high probability.

[0047]

[Embodiment of the Invention] Hereafter, the gestalt of operation of this invention is explained with reference to a drawing. Drawing 1 is the example which shows the gestalt of 1 operation of the order processing system of this invention, and carried out the above-mentioned ordering information listing device as a digital camera.

[0048] In drawing 1, digital camera 1a is the camera of the type equipped with the liquid crystal display monitor, and records the image data acquired by photography on the main part of a digital camera, and the removable memory card 2. On the other hand, order reception equipment 3 is the computer equipped with the peripheral device and program for capturing and carrying out the image processing of the image, and outputting to a printer. Moreover, the digital photography printer 4 is a well-known printer which carries out a printed output according to the directions which were able to give the inputted image data.

[0049] With the gestalt of this operation, the above-mentioned digital camera 1a is equipped with two

kinds of recording modes, a printing mode and a non-printing mode, as a recording mode of an image, and a user can choose one of recording modes, before taking a photograph. When a printing mode is chosen, gradation processing which was automatically suitable for the printed output to the image data acquired by photography is performed, and processed image data is the highest resolution, and is recorded on a memory card 2 in the condition of not being compressed. Moreover, when a non-printing mode is chosen, a user can set up the resolution and the compressibility at the time of image recording manually, and the image data acquired by photography is recorded with the resolution and the compressibility which the user set up.

[0050] Moreover, the usual photography mode in which digital camera 1a records the image data acquired by photography on a memory card 2 as it is as the operation mode, The preview photography mode canceled without indicating the image immediately after photography by playback at the monitor of camera attachment, responding to directions from a user, and recording [do not record the image or] it on a memory card 2, 1 coma playback mode which indicates at a monitor the one every coma of the images recorded on the memory card 2 by playback, The index playback mode which indicates the image recorded on the memory card 2 by playback at two or more coma [every] monitor, A coma was specified out of the image currently recorded on the memory card 2, or all coma was eliminated collectively, and it has the five operation modes of the washout mode which formats a memory card if needed.

[0051] Furthermore, digital camera 1a is equipped with the function for managing ordering information and order decision information in each above-mentioned operation mode. Moreover, in addition to those functions, the function for the order check which is the feature of this invention (order check mode) is also mounted. In order check mode, an index indication of a coma for an output and the coma besides an object is distinguished and given. For example, drawing 2 gives a frame to a coma for an output, and is the example which displayed the specified print number of sheets on the lower right of an image.

[0052] Creation of ordering information can be performed in preview photography mode, 1 coma playback mode, an index playback mode, and order check mode.

[0053] In preview photography mode, only when the user has chosen the printing mode as said recording mode, as shown in drawing 3 at the time of the preview of an image, print number of sheets (initial value is zero sheet) is displayed with an image. A user can set up print number of sheets by changing the number of sheets currently displayed by performing predetermined button grabbing. With the gestalt of this operation, when the user has chosen the non-printing mode as said recording mode, print number of sheets is not displayed, therefore a user cannot perform a number-of-sheets setup. That is, user-friendliness is improved by interlocking an ordering information creation function with a setup of a recording mode.

[0054] In 1 coma playback mode and an index playback mode, only when a user performs predetermined actuation during image reconstruction, print number of sheets is displayed, and a setup of number of sheets is attained.

[0055] In the case of 1 coma playback mode, the setting screen of print number of sheets becomes with a screen like above-mentioned drawing 3 . A user can set up print number of sheets by changing the number of sheets currently displayed by performing predetermined button grabbing.

[0056] Moreover, in the case of an index playback mode, the setting screen of print number of sheets becomes with screen same with order check mode like drawing 2 . A user can choose a coma by predetermined button grabbing, and can set up print number of sheets like [coma / selected] the above-mentioned 1 coma playback mode.

[0057] Moreover, in order check mode, print number of sheets is displayed from the beginning, and a user can set up print number of sheets about the coma which a desired coma chose and chose.

[0058] The contents set up in any mode are recorded on a memory card 2 as ordering information of a predetermined format.

[0059] With the gestalt of this operation, as shown in drawing 1 , ordering information is described by both tag fields 9 of the order file 6 and an image file 7. The order about one coma is described in an image file 7, and orders over two or more coma, such as an order of an index print, are described by the

order file 6.

[0060] Like file systems, such as a personal computer, the directory division of this order file 6 and image file 7 is carried out, and they are recorded on a memory card 2. The example of drawing 4 is the gestalt with which there is a directory IMFIDX10 with the order file 6 (ORDER.TXT), and the image file 7 was further stored in the directory IMFIDX10 under the root directory.

[0061] Drawing 5 is drawing showing an example of a format of an image file 7. As shown in drawing, an image file 7 is a file of the format which gave the tag field 8 which describes the various incidental information on the image to the image data 9 showing an image. There is a field which describes photography information, such as format classification of others [ordering information / 17], for example, the image file, a thumbnail image of a low resolution, and a photography day, exposure of a camera, etc. among the tag fields 8. As ordering information 17, various items, such as a trimming range besides order number of sheets, and a rotational center, a rotational angle, can be described.

[0062] On the other hand, drawing 6 is drawing showing an example of a format of an order file. Ordering information is classified and described in this format by the management information section which describes the information about the order file itself etc., and the print directions section which describes print directions literally. The creation date of an order file besides the version of an order file etc. is described by the management information section. Moreover, concrete print directions are described by the print directions section. The examples of drawing 6 are directions of creating the index print of two sheets with which the extension made all the image files of .JPG applicable to an output.

[0063] Digital camera 1a describes the directions information received from the user to each field of the above-mentioned image file or an order file.

[0064] Here, in the conventional order art, the memory card 2 on which the above ordering information was recorded was received and passed to the service provider as it was, and the order was performed. However, in the order art of this invention, an order will not become possible without by performing order decision actuation.

[0065] Order decision actuation is performed in order check mode. the predetermined actuation which a user checks the order contents, such as print number of sheets, on the screen of drawing 2 , and means the completion of a check in order check mode -- carrying out (for example, the manual operation button of dedication being pushed) -- the order of the displayed contents is decided. When this actuation is performed, order decision information is recorded on a memory card 2.

[0066] Moreover, the once decided order can also be canceled in order check mode. When undo operation of order decision is performed, order decision information is also eliminated from a memory card 2. Furthermore, in order check mode, the order performed in each mode can also be canceled collectively.

[0067] In addition, when new print assignment by preview photography mode, 1 coma playback mode, and the index playback mode is performed after order decision actuation was performed and order decision information was recorded on the memory card 2, order decision is canceled automatically and the order decision information in a memory card is eliminated.

[0068] Moreover, when an image file is eliminated by washout mode after order decision actuation, order decision is canceled automatically similarly. Moreover, an order file is also eliminated, when all coma elimination is specified in washout mode, or when [as a result of eliminating one coma,] the number of the image files in a memory card 2 is set to 0.

[0069] In addition, with the gestalt of this operation, decision and discharge of an order are performed by changing the Hidden attribute of an order file. That is, when order decision actuation is performed, the Hidden attribute of an order file is considered as a Hidden setup, and when order decision undo operation is performed, or in canceling order decision automatically as mentioned above, it cancels a Hidden setup. When a Hidden setup is carried out, a user does not understand existence of an order file, but existence of an order file comes to understand it only after order decision actuation is performed. Thereby, a user or a service provider can know easily whether it is finishing [order decision actuation].

[0070] Moreover, digital camera 1a of the gestalt of this operation displays on a monitor the message which presses for order decision actuation like drawing 7 , when extraction of the memory card is

carried out so that order decision actuation may be ensured, and when an electric power switch is turned OFF.

[0071] In addition, although the gestalt of the above-mentioned implementation describes ordering information to both tag information on an order file and an image file and makes order decision by the change of the Hidden attribute of an order file, otherwise, it can consider various gestalten as a gestalt of ordering information or order decision information.

[0072] For example, the gestalt which describes only an order file only to an image file is sufficient as ordering information. Moreover, order decision information can think the method of setting the ReadOnly attribute of an order file as ReadOnly at the time of order decision, the method of describing the effective order date in an order file at the time of order decision, the method of describing the code and the keyword of order decision in an order file at the time of order decision, the method of embedding the code of the order decision to the image file of an image with the smallest (or large) coma number among the images by which order assignment was carried out at the time of order decision, etc.

[0073] A table 1 is a table having shown the gestalt of the order decision information which can be carried out, respectively in the gestalt of each above-mentioned ordering information. in a table 1, operation is possible -- when (O) is located in a line with the lengthwise direction, it is also possible by using these gestalten together to raise the reliability of order decision information.

[0074]

[A table 1]

○ 実施可能 × 実施不可能

注文情報の形態 注文確定情報の形態	注文ファイル+ 画像ファイル 埋め込み注文情報	注文ファイルのみ	画像ファイル 埋め込み注文情報 のみ
注文ファイルの Hidden属性を使用	○	○	×
注文ファイルの ReadOnly属性を使用	○	○	×
注文ファイル中に コードを記述	○	○	×
注文ファイル中の 注文年月日を使用	○	○	×
画像ファイル 埋め込み注文情報 の1つとしてコードを 記述	○	×	○

[0075] Thus, the memory card 2 on which ordering information and order decision information were recorded is received by the order reception equipment 3 of drawing 1 . Order reception equipment 3 checks order decision information, if the order is decided, it will incorporate the image file currently recorded on the memory card 2 according to ordering information, it performs a required image processing, and directs creation of a print 10 to the photograph printer 4.

[0076] In addition, not a digital camera but the dedicated terminal for ordering information creation processing may realize creation of ordering information, and the function manager of order decision information. Drawing 8 is drawing having shown the gestalt which makes creation and order decision of

ordering information with the dedicated terminal 11. Digital camera 1b is not equipped with the ordering information creation function with this gestalt. Moreover, digital camera 1b does not necessarily need to be equipped with the liquid crystal display monitor.

[0077] Dedicated terminals 11 are the card reading section 12 which reads a memory card 2 and acquires an image file 7, the read image file 7 and the display screen 13 which displays various processing menus, and equipment equipped with the directions carbon button 14 for performing the selection input to the displayed processing menu, and it is equipment which offers an ordering-information creation function equivalent to digital camera 1a in the gestalt of drawing 1 , and an order decision information-management function by this.

[0078] The dedicated terminal 11 is connected through order reception equipment 3, direct or a public line, or the Internet, and, thereby, the order file 6 (order decision information is included) and image file 7 which were created can be transmitted to order reception equipment 3. Or the order file 6 etc. is rerecorded on the memory card 2 on which the image file 7 was recorded, and a file may be delivered to order reception equipment 3 through a memory card 2 like the gestalt of drawing 1 .

[0079] According to the gestalt of drawing 8 , the user of the conventional digital camera which is not equipped with the order decision function can also place an order by the order art of this invention.

[Translation done.]